

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are now pending in the application. Claims 1-6, 14, 15 and 17 are allowed. Claims 7 and 16 stand rejected. Claims 8-13 stand objected to. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 AND 103

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Frisco et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,208,307, hereafter Frisco). Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Frisco in view of Lusignan (U.S. Pat. No. 5,649,318, hereinafter Lusignan). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

At the outset, Applicant notes independent claim 7 has been amended to include "at least one ground station in communication with the mobile platform via the transponder, the ground station comprising a master forward link transponder assignment link," and independent claim 16 has been amended to include "loading a plurality of priority sets of forward link transponder assignments on a ground station." As noted by the Examiner, neither Frisco nor Lusignan teach this feature as claimed. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts independent claims 1 and 7 are now patentable and in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that claims 8-13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant is postponing the re-writing of these claims pending the Examiner's review of the remarks contained herein. In addition, the Examiner states that claims 1-6, 14, 15

and 17 are allowed. Applicant thanks the Examiner for these preliminary indications of allowable subject matter.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 
Mark D. Elchuk, Reg. No. 33,686

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

MDE/EKS/ps